

News

Outstanding staff members receive Board Governors' excellence awards



Gillian Johnston

One of the secrets of professor *Gillian Johnston's* success as a teacher is her passion for her profession and her ability to pass that excitement on to her students.

Johnston, co-ordinator of the Career and Work Counsellor program, is the winner of this year's Board of Governors' Award for Teaching Excellence. A career counsellor before joining the Career and Work Counsellor program in 1993, Johnston was nominated by a group of colleagues, including *Maureen Hynes* of the School of Labour.

"The comment most frequently made about Gillian by her students," writes Hynes in her nomination letter, "is that 'She is always there for us - she always makes the time to talk with us, to coach us, to encourage us.' Students value her positive and

flexible attitude, her willingness and availability, and the extra care she takes."

Johnston credits her background as a counsellor and her training in adult education for much of her success as a teacher. "I think being a counsellor really helps with being a good teacher because counselling principles are easily adaptable to the classroom. I try to help the students work towards self-sufficiency," she says.

Johnston's program is distinguished for having a 100 percent placement record and a very low attrition rate.

"We work very closely with our students in the first month they come to the college and I attribute a lot of our success and our students' success to that. We do three weeks of team building, problem solving and conflict resolution training. We also look at learning and personality styles, and presentation skills but more importantly how to be successful team players - all things to equip them to be successful students. I think that's one of the keys."

Others being recognized by the Board of Governors include *Mario Parravano*, the principal housekeeper at 146 Kendal Avenue on the Casa Loma campus. Parravano is

being honoured for the integrity he brings to maintaining a clean and safe working environment, as well as the humour, patience and diligence he displays with staff and students alike.



College undertakes major review of student information systems

George Brown has launched a comprehensive review of its entire student information system in an effort to improve the quality and effectiveness of service to students and staff.

"After classroom teaching and learning activities, the second biggest challenge to our students is dealing with the college's processes and procedures," says *Bob Struthers*, vice president of Corporate Services and External Relations. "It should be a reasonably effortless exercise for students from the time they apply to the time they graduate."

From providing information to prospective students, to handling their applications, registering them, collecting fees, helping them to select electives and handling course changes, to issuing marks and eventually final transcripts and diplomas, each activity is a process in itself, backed up by policies, technology and human interaction, says Struthers.

"But it is also a continuum; everything is linked; everything is connected. The college has to ensure that everything works together

Continued on pg. 3

Continued on pg. 4

President's Column

A committee of the Board of Governors met recently to choose the winners of the 1997 Board of Governors' Awards of Excellence. It was the first year in which we used the new two-step identification process. The first step involved nominating individuals and



teams for the George Brown College Awards of Excellence, as celebrated in June, in the areas of Leadership, Teaching Excellence, Outstanding

Service to the College Community, Outstanding Service to the Community, and Team Achievement. Winners in each of these categories then became the nominees for the Board of Governors' Awards.

Needless to say, choosing one winner from each category was not an easy task for the selection committee as each of the nominees has made an important contribution to our college or their community. However, after lengthy deliberations, I am pleased to announce the following as this year's recipients of the Board of Governors' Awards of Excellence:

- **Leadership Excellence:** Michael Cooke, Dean, Community Services & Health Sciences
- **Teaching Excellence:** Gillian Johnston, Professor, Career and Work Counselling
- **Outstanding Service to the Community:** Bill Wong, Professor, Chinese Cooking
- **Outstanding Service to the College Community:** Mario Parravano, Caretaker, 146 Kendal Avenue
- **Team Achievement:** the 15 individuals who supported Team George Brown at the *Taste of Canada* competitions

Congratulations to these winners, as well as to the nominees. You can take great pride in the contributions you make to the college and the role you play in making George Brown a better place to work and to learn.

As we come to the end of 1997, I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all staff for the contributions you have made over the past year. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

During the upcoming holiday season, I want to wish you all the very best. I hope your holiday is a safe and happy one.

— FRANK SOROICHINSKY

George Brown team visits China

A team of staff from George Brown travelled to Suzhou, China in late October to finalize the framework of a four-year project with Suzhou Vocational College (SVC) which will strengthen that college's capacity to serve the needs of small and medium sized businesses within its immediate employment area, particularly in the hospitality and tourism sector.

The overall goal of the project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency through the Association of Canadian Community Colleges, is to contribute to economic reform and the promotion of China's private sector.

Academic and Student Affairs vice-president Maureen Callahan, Hospitality and Tourism professor Bill Wong, International Centre director Nancy Sherman, and Jeannet Lynn, the International Centre's recruitment and marketing officer, visited the college to become more familiar with its programs and the nature of its relationship with business and industry.

"The team found that, in addition to Hospitality, the overall program mix at the colleges was similar, including programs in Fashion

Technology, Accounting and English as a Second Language," says Callahan. "SVC staff were extremely hospitable as were the representatives of business and industry we had the opportunity to meet, including leaders from their Chamber of Commerce and the Suzhou New District Council."

"Primary goals of the project include working with them on increasing their capacity to involve business and industry in the development and review of curriculum, and providing technical, language and

business skills upgrading to their faculty," added Sherman.

The project was originally identified by Wong when he visited China during a professional development leave about a year and a half ago. After visiting several institutions, he identified Suzhou Vocational College as the most compatible with George Brown. The city itself, with a population of five million, is a one hour drive from Shanghai.

Representatives of Suzhou College will pay a return visit later this winter to become more familiar with George Brown's programs and to receive training in the Ontario college system approach to curriculum development which involves extensive input from program advisory committees.

"The project will take place both here and in Suzhou. We expect to learn as much from Suzhou as they learn from us," says Sherman, adding that she hopes the project will also lead to an articulation agreement between the two colleges in the future.



George Brown's Vice-President, Academic Maureen Callahan and Mr. Huang, Vice-President, Academic of Suzhou Vocational College during the signing of the project agreement.

George Brown People

Pramila Aggarwal, Professor in the Community Worker program was invited to give a paper at a conference in London, England in mid October, on the Impact of Globalization in South Asia.

The Human Resources Department has told us of the following staff changes:

Director of Training Services *Barbara Taylor* is leaving George Brown to become Academic vice-president at Canadore

College in North Bay, effective December 7. Taylor was with George Brown for 18 years, first as a professor in the Community Services division and later as a chair responsible for a number of Access programs, including FUTURES and Academic Skills Development. She became director of Training Services in 1994.

Leaving the college are: *Larry Gillis, Ronald Gosciminski and Elise Robinson.*

Way to Go! – George Brown Success Stories

Allied Health campaign closes in on goal

The Allied Health Department launched a Faculty and Friends Campaign to raise funds to support the second phase of the Allied Health Facilities Renewal project. After less than six weeks, pledges stand at \$40K – 80 percent of the target! The new facility is scheduled to open in April 1998.

Staff co-author Life Skills publication

Co-authors Ron Shuser, Sande Gunning, Rosemary Murray and Heather MacDonald are celebrating the release of the YWCA's new *Life Skills Manual*. A welcomed addition to the limited resources available to those teaching life skills, the manual was developed to support an earlier publication on Life Skills theory. All proceeds from the publication will go towards subsidizing YWCA programming.

Two staff travel to Bosnia

Lynne Brennan and Mandy Binsteed led the GBC training team which travelled to Bosnia in November on a project which is providing training to new non-government organizations. As a former Communist regime, Bosnia has no tradition of non-governmental voluntary organizations. The training project will span the next 12 months and includes a March 1998 visit to Canada by eight Bosnians.

Gemology students to attend prestigious institute

Congratulations to Christel-Elvira Klocke, of the Jewellery Arts & Gemology department, and her two students who were recently awarded tuition to study at the H.R.D. Institute of Gemology, a department of the Diamond High Council. This outstanding invitation from H.R.D. is allowing Huen Chang and Anna Jankowiak, two graduates of the full-

time Gemology program, to enter a two-week program in specialized and professional Diamond Grading.

Practical Nursing Program being developed

Nursing faculty Penny Vernon and Sharon Jeffreys are heading up the team which is developing a new Practical Nursing Program for GBC to be introduced in September 1998. The program will give high priority to community-based nursing, critical thinking and communication skills, and team work.

New Dental Program is a hit!

The response to Allied Health's new Level II Dental Assisting program, being offered through Continuing Education, has been overwhelming! Four sections of 36 seats are completely filled and another 30-40 students are on the waiting list. Hats off to Mary Raspor for her work in developing and marketing this new program.

Partnership results in jobs and in-house training opportunities

As part of a new partnership with Lansing Buildall, a large building supplies retailer, a student recruitment day occurred on November 13 for part-time and summer employment. These employment opportunities will complement and link with GBC offerings, while at the same time enhancing student knowledge and career prospects by providing "in-house" training.

Good news from Employer Services

Employer Services is hard at work on the following contracts:

- working with Baycrest to provide language upgrading to Health Care Aides after initial assessments on approximately 40 trainees;

resource person Kimm Culkin; and Al Budzin of Interdisciplinary Studies.

"Consultation is important to this process. We need policies which make sense, technology that works and human interaction which is positive, clear and helpful," says Budzin. "Through this project, we will gain a better understanding of what we need to do as a college to make the process simple, accurate and smooth."

Interviews will continue through December with a final plan and recommendations expected by the end of January. Although not everyone can be interviewed, comments or suggestions can be made directly to the project team through Al Budzin at ext. 2543 or e-mail at abudzin@gbrown.on.ca.

- delivering Assertiveness Training to the legal secretaries at the law firm McCarthy Tetrault. The two day program is being delivered through the Community Services & Health Sciences division;
- delivering a Customer Service program to staff members of the Delta Chelsea Hotel in partnership with the Hospitality & Tourism Centre;
- delivering Retail Training courses for another year to tenants of the Toronto Eaton Centre, the result of positive feedback from training delivered by GBC last year;
- delivering various technical training programs through the AFCC of Technology to the staff of ALC Glass.

George Brown donates hand-made toys

Students in the Building Renovations Program are making wooden toys to donate to three local charities. Tom Stephenson, Construction Trades co-ordinator, says each year students in the program make a variety of wooden toys as part of a manufacturing project. About 200 wooden cars, trucks, boats, planes and piggy and loony banks will be given to the Hospital for Sick Children, the North York Women's Shelter and the CHUM Christmas Wish. Another 50 will be raffled off to pay for materials for the project, says Stephenson.

Students, United Way benefit from Chef Challenge

Two George Brown staff chefs participated with six other Toronto area chefs in the Chef Challenge, a fund raising event for the United Way held by Monsanto Canada. Over 200 people paid \$100 to sample the special dishes, including a camomile-flavoured pear tart by George Brown's Jean-Yves Vandeville and Iroquois maple cranberry glazed medallions of Plains Cree buffalo served on a corn bannock by college chef David Wolfman. The event raised \$15,000 for United Way and \$5,000 for the George Brown Hospitality Trust Fund, a bursary fund for students in need. The \$5,000 will be matched by the provincial government.

Japanese homebuilders visit College

A group of homebuilders from Nagoya, Japan were at George Brown in October for a presentation by the Building Technology programs. Construction Trades co-ordinator Tom Stephenson says the nine homebuilders were given a tour of the college, an overview of the Building Technology programs and a presentation on Canadian construction methods and the construction industry in Canada. The presentation was arranged through the Canadian Consulate in Nagoya and the International Centre at George Brown.

Major review Continued from pg. 1

so that it is an effortless process for students. That's our goal."

While the system is supported by computer software which handles the mechanical end of things, Struthers notes that it is still largely a human endeavour involving hundreds of staff and a minimum of 250,000 student transactions per academic cycle.

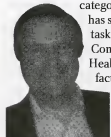
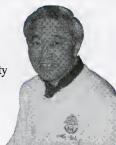
A project team will review current processes, interview college staff and students about what's working and what's not, and make recommendations on how the college can make significant improvements, both immediately and in the longer term. The team includes Chris Wengle of Technology; Paula Price of Nursing; Jackie MacDonald of the Registrar's Office;

Bill Wong, George Brown's professor of Chinese Cooking, is being honoured for Outstanding Community Service for his active involvement in the Chinese community and as the driving force behind the Chinese Culinary Apprenticeship program, soon to mark its 30th graduating class. Wong's nominators underlined the vision and energy he has brought to building a positive and progressive relationship between the college and the Chinese community at large.

Dean of Community Services Michael Cooke was selected in the Leadership category for the leadership he has shown in the complex task of combining Community Services and Health Sciences into one faculty. Cooke is also being recognized for developing George Brown's response to the province's

Healthcare Restructuring Commission which is positioning George Brown to be the leader in community health care training.

No less than 15 staff supporters are being recognized for their contribution in leading Team George Brown to a third place win in the world culinary competitions in May. The Team Achievement Award recognizes their efforts above and beyond their regular George Brown work activities. Team



Plans for children's party in full swing

The George Brown College Children's Party, on December 13, promises to be bigger and better than ever, say Lou Tarsitano, chair of the planning committee.

"We really hope a lot of people are going to come, because with the college's 30th anniversary, we've got a lot of fun planned for everyone and a lot of giveaways," says Tarsitano, a professor in Construction Trades.

Scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., this year's event has added a number of new features in addition to traditional favorites. The wide range of activities includes an expanded crafts area with candle making, beading, painting and food decorating. Battery-operated cars as well as remote-control cars on a racetrack will also keep the children entertained. A new food menu will feature fajitas and a live band will play

popular music. The festivities will end with a visit from Santa Claus around 2:30 p.m. at which time all children will receive a present. Everyone will receive a 30th anniversary gift.

"Nothing's regimented this year; everything's going to be open at one time, including the food which will be available from noon until about 2 p.m.," says Tarsitano.

The party will be held in the gymnasium and cafeteria at Casa Loma, with food prepared by the Hospitality & Tourism Centre. Open to all full-time and part-time staff and their children and grandchildren, tickets are a flat-rate of \$10 each. Tickets for good children are \$15 each.

Registration forms were recently sent out to all staff. If you didn't receive one, contact Lou Tarsitano at ext. 4354.

George Brown was led by coaches Ian Grady, Tom Gibson and Ed Wright.

The Board of Governors selected the winners from among the recipients of the George Brown College Awards of Excellence which were awarded across the college's ten jurisdictions at an event in June.

The winners of the Board of Governors' Awards of Excellence will be honoured December 10 at the Board of Governors' Staff Recognition Dinner.



CALENDAR

Dec. 3 Windows 3.1 Introduction, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Call ext. 4661 to register.

Dec. 5 Windows '95 Introduction, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bell Lab, Casa Loma. Call ext. 4661 to register.

Dec. 10 Board of Governors' meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Dec. 12 The following Student Affairs departments will be closed all day for a divisional retreat: Director's Office, Alumni Affairs, Athletics and Student Life, Counseling and Career Services, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, Financial Assistance, Special Needs and Student Success. They will reopen Dec. 15 at 8:30 a.m.

Dec. 13 George Brown College Children's Party, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Casa Loma gymnasium and cafeteria. Registration forms available through campus manager or call Lou Tarsitano at ext. 4354.

Dec. 16 Board of Governors' Finance and Property Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Dec. 17 Board of Governors' Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Dec. 24 College closes at noon. Reopens Monday Jan. 5, 1998.

Jan. 7 Board of Governors' meeting, 5:30 p.m. Call ext. 4472 if you plan to attend.

Jan. 23 Big Night, a nine-course Italian meal to raise funds for the Italian Culinary Arts program in the Hospitality & Tourism Centre. Tickets are \$130 per person. Contact Ellen deBoer at ext. 2239.

We welcome success stories about you or your colleagues. Deadline for submissions for the January issue is December 15.

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